

**San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Steering Committee
Meeting Summary
April 5, 2006**

Next Meeting—Tuesday, June 6th, 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., BCDC

Key Outcomes

- ▶ The Water Trail Steering Committee (Committee) approved the revised Charter as its organizational document and agreed on a Work Plan for the remaining Committee meetings.
- ▶ After reviewing the revised Water Trail Vision Statement, the Committee provided additional comments for staff consideration. Staff will continue improving the working draft of the Vision Statement. And, the Committee will revisit it formally during its final meeting after the Committee has had all its discussions on Water Trail implementation issues.
- ▶ The Committee and members of the public discussed access issues and trail head improvement and management strategies. They revised strategies proposed by staff will review them again during Meeting 4.

Action Items

Responsible	Task	Deadline
Steering Committee	Provide recommendations to staff of issue experts and representatives from resource management agencies and organizations to consult and include.	ongoing
Steering Committee	Submit comments on the trail head improvement and management strategies to Sara Polgar	4/14
Steering Committee	Provide editorial comments and additional feedback on Vision Statement	4/14
Sara Polgar	Incorporate changes to the strategies and distribute to Committee	6/6

New Committee Member

Beth Huning, Coordinator of San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, will serve on the committee. She has experience in restoration projects, trail development, and interpretation.

Water Trail Vision Statement

At the previous meeting, the Committee reviewed and commented extensively on the draft Water Trail Vision Statement. Project staff incorporated these comments into a revised working draft for Committee members to discuss at this meeting. Staff noted suggestions and will collect additional comments through April 14, 2006, and work with members to resolve concerns on the working draft. Staff will then set the working draft aside until the final meeting when the Committee will be able to revise it using insights gained from all the meetings on Water Trail issues.

Changes suggested during the meeting include:

- In goal #4, suggest separating the statement about agricultural operations into its own goal.
- Consider using different language about impacts such as avoiding impacts when possible in goal #4. Other members suggested that “minimizing impacts” includes “avoiding impacts when possible”.
- Specifically mention protection of migratory birds in goal #4.
- Specifically call-out habitat for endangered and threatened species in goal #5.
- Use more descriptive language about education to promote safety for non-motorized small boaters on the Bay in goal #6.
- Consider separating distinct education categories mentioned in goal #6 (e.g. safety; historic and cultural; etc.) into different goals.
- Acknowledge presence of other boaters and users of the Bay in goal #6.

Role of Experts

Project staff also described how experts will be called upon to assist the Committee in its work:

- (1) Presenting at meetings,
- (2) Participating in discussions at meetings, and
- (3) Advising staff and reviewing Water Trail documents between meetings.

Committee members recommended people with relevant expertise for Water Trail planning, and staff distributed a list of these names and asked for additional suggestions or corrections to the list.

Access and Trail Head Improvements and Management Strategies

To familiarize everyone with the access issues for potential Water Trail users, Sara Polgar gave a presentation and led a discussion on the types of non-motorized small boating (NMSB) activities and access in San Francisco Bay. Staff also presented a draft map showing existing sites around the Bay where NMSB users can currently launch their boats.

The Committee and members of the public then reviewed preliminary strategies developed by staff. These comments are summarized below. The preliminary strategies are in Table A of the “Water Trail Issues, Opportunities and Management Strategies” (March 17, 2006) document at the BCDC website: http://www.bcdc.ca.gov/pdf/project_wt/trailhead%20_strategies.pdf

Strategy	Comments
Strategy 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Remove “regular interval” because this is unclear and sets an inappropriate planning objective.- Use language that facilitates an organic approach to selecting trail heads that takes into account the conditions and resources around the Bay.
Strategy 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Trail head improvements should be consistent with user groups as well.
Strategy 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Identify launch sites with good training opportunities for less experienced boaters.- Increase capacity at appropriate sites that will draw potentially damaging uses and behavior away from sensitive locations.

- Strategy 5** - Clarify that this strategy refers to management for all aspects of the trail head, not just natural resources.
- Strategy 6** - Trail heads should have a clearly identified entity that is responsible for site maintenance.
- Consider recommending coordination with non-governmental organizations or NMSB user groups for ongoing maintenance at a trail head as an option.
- Strategy 7** - Consider a permit system to facilitate provision of overnight parking.
- Strategy 11** - Separate camping from the other types of overnight accommodations because the development and management needs are different for camping.
- Add intermediate types of overnight accommodations (e.g. historic ships) as another category of accommodation.
- Consider a permit system to facilitate provision of camping opportunities.

Suggestions for Additional Strategies

- Provide educational kiosks at bigger sites with information such as “Birds you’ll see on the Bay.”
- Educate local law enforcement about trail heads and regulations that apply at those sites.
- In locating or developing a trail head, consider potential impacts of trail head usage on the management resources of neighboring land owners.
- Consider “Leave No Trace” ethic as an overarching education approach for fostering safe and appropriate use.
- Economic analysis of the cost of operating and maintaining a trail head and any interpretive or educational program attached to it (such as signage regarding sensitive species and habitats).

If the Committee or members of the public have additional comments on these strategies, they should submit them to Sara Polgar by April 14 (sarap@bcd.ca.gov tel: 415-352-3645 fax: 415-352-3640). Staff will incorporate the comments and make the revised strategies available to the Committee for the next meeting. The Committee will have the opportunity to revisit these recommendations at Meeting 4 to address gaps and inconsistencies in the policy guidance.

Meeting Participants

Steering Committee

Mike Ammon, California Department of Boating
and Waterways
Margot Brown, SF Bay Harbor Safety Committee
Ted Choi, City Kayak
Arthur Feinstein, Citizens Committee to Complete
the Refuge
Cecily Harris, Bay Area Open Space Council
Beth Huning, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
Jessica Parsons, Save the Bay
Jim McGrath, Bay Access, SF Boardsailing
Association
Barbara Salzman, Audubon Society, Marin
Chapter
Laura Thompson, ABAG Bay Trail Project
Penny Wells, Bay Access
Brian Wiese, East Bay Regional Park District

Members of the Public

Winnie Chan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, SF
Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Frank and Janice Delfino, Citizens Committee to
Complete the Refuge
David Dolberg, Bay Access
Paul Kamen, Berkeley Waterfront Commission
Libby Lucas, California Native Plant Society
Bob Pinder, San Francisco Bar Pilots
Robin Smith, Sequoia Audubon Society
Casey Walker, Bay Access

Invited Experts

Lynn Cullivan, San Francisco Maritime National
Park
Robert Johnson, Oyster Point Marina
Cliff Marchetti, City of Berkeley

Staff

Sara Polgar, BCDC
Ann Buell, California Coastal Conservancy
Jeff Blanchfield, BCDC
Patrycja Bossak, ABAG Bay Trail Project
Tim Corrigan, California Coastal Conservancy

Facilitator Contact Information

Gina Bartlett, Center for Collaborative Policy
1303 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Tel: 415-255-6805, E: gbartlett@pacbell.net